ON THE DRAWING BOARD

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to:

first class

vol. 3, no. 4

THE COMIC READER # 68 *** OTDB is published 8 times a year (approximately every 6½ weeks). The cost of a year's subscription is $1.00 in U.S. funds. Single copies are 15¢ each. All copies are mailed first class. Overseas subscriptions (in U.S. funds):- Atlantic: $3.20 a year, 40¢ per single issue. Pacific: $4.00 per year, 50¢ per single issue. All overseas copies sent air mail. The overseas prices cover postage only, I absorb the rest of the cost.

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Further inquires about the Shadow hardback book mentioned here last issue have brought no further details. Grosset & Dunlop, publishers of the first hardcover Shadow anthology, deny any knowledge of this new book. Fan Lohr McKinstry has suggested that the four stories in this book will be the ones that comprise the Shiwan Kahn series. I would appreciate any additional information anyone has concerning this matter.

Just released from Avon Books is a new Swords and Sorcery paperback entitled Brak The Barbarian by John Jakes. Number S363, 60¢, Frank Frazetta cover.

The sixth TV Avengers paperback is now available from Berkley Medallion Books. Title is "The Drowned Queen," by Keith Laumer; 60¢, # X1565.

ALLEY AWARD CORRECTIONS

I made three mistakes when I presented the Alley Award Results in the last issue that I didn't spot in time to correct then. I'd like to do so now.

In section II, catagory 3:- the title of the third place winning story from Strange Adventures # 207 should be "What Makes A Corpse Cry?".

In section II, catagory 10:- Since The Spirit by Will Eisner won last year, it is ineligible. Therefore the Hall Of Fame Award went to Carmine Infantino for Adam Strange. Cap'n Carmine has asked me to pass along his deepest thanks to the Academy for the Award, and so it is accomplished by my printing it here.

In section III, catagory 9:- The Blue Beetle strip should have been marked ineligible in 1967.

There was really no excuse for my making these mistakes, but I hope my apologies will be accepted.

* * *

I have two happy social notes to pass along to Comicdom assembled.

Firstly, it is my happy duty to report the birth of the winner of the 1988 Alley Awards for best penciler and best inker, Jason Adams, whose artistic endeavors will surely put those of his father, Neal, to shame.

Secondly, there is the marriage of Roy Thomas to report. If I were any sort of a reporter, or more of a snoop, I'd I've made a point of learning the new Mrs. Thomas maiden name. Anyhow, a long and happy wedded life to Roy and Jean Thomas. (And if I've somehow managed to mis-remember your bride's first name, Roy, you have my permission to deliver unto me one swift, hard kick!)

DELL

As of July 5th, Dell Publishing has closed down its comics department. However, they will continue to turn out a limited number of books, mostly TV and movie contracted titles such as Mission: Impossible, The Monkees, The Flying Nun, Daktari and Gentle Ben, with an occasional special title.

ADVENTURE HOUSE PRESS

There definately will be a science fiction title from Adventure House. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to ascertain the exact title or contents; nor release date for that matter. Although I haven't been able to confirm details, there seems to have been some sort of legal litigation concerning His Name Is...SAVAGE, possibly because of the cover illustration's resemblance to Lee Marvin. However, Gil Kane has informed me that work has gone ahead on future issues of Savage.

KING

King Features will be concentrating on promotion of its Beatles cartoon, "The Yellow Submarine," until its American premiere, about Christmas time. Bill Harris is caught up in this promotional endeavor, and there probabily won't be any decision on the fate of the King comics until early next year. If King decides not to produce their own comics, chances are that the rights to do comics based on the King characters will once again be leased out, as they previously were.

WARREN

Bill Parente has informed me that the new magazine to be published by Warren will NOT be a Swords & Sorcery title, but will be about "a currently popular theme." However, fan Lohr McKinstry has informed me that Jim Warren definately has bought the rights to do Robert Howard's S & S character CONAN as a comic strip feature.

CHARLTON

Due out this month is a 35¢, 64-page, black and white version of the Hercules book. This book reprints the first Hercules tale as well as the most recent one. It also reprints the first three Thane Of Bagarth episodes with a new finish written and tacked on to the end. Some wash has been added to the strips for this new format.

The theme of the Thane strip will change emphasis to science-fiction with the addition of a time machine to complicate matters.

Most of the war series will be appearing only in every other issue of their respective magazines.

Steve Skates would like it known that he holds no further responcability for the stories appearing under his name in the Abbott & Costello book.

ACG·····TOWER

The biggest news this time around is that the American Comics Group, which used to publish Unknown Worlds and similar weird and science-fiction titles, has bought the rights to the Tower Comics books and characters. It is still too early in the game to ascertain what titles will be published under this new arraignment, but an educated guess would be that there will probably be several 12¢ titles based on the Tower super-hero line.

Speculating further, with the entire line of Marvel Comics to be no longer distributed by Independent News (see this issue's Marvel listings for details) and because ACG comics <u>are</u> distributed by Independent, there may be encouragement for ACG to turn out a number of titles in order to fill the void left by Marvel's change of distribtor.

I hope to have further information on this subject in the next issue.

MARVEL

Some of the big news out of Marvel, for us at least, is that there <u>will</u> be news out of Marvel. Stan Lee has loosened the restiction on news releases to us somewhat, for which we thank him deeply.

The really big news out of Marvel, however, is the sale of the Magazine Management Corporation, Marvel Comics' parent company, to Perfect Film Company. The Curtis Publishing Corporation and its subsidiary, the Curtis Distributing Company (which nationally distributes such magazines as The Saturday Evening Post) is also owned by Perfect Film. What all this adds up to is that Marvel Comics will no longer be distributed by Independant News Corporation (a subsidiary of National Periodical Publications) but will be distributed by Curtis instead. However, this change-over won't occur for at least 6 months, probably a year.

What this will mean to the fan is hard to say. It could mean better or worse distribution, or no change in distribution at all, depending on where you live. Speculating further, it could possibly mean the rise in price of Marvel comics to 15¢, although as far as I know this move is not being contemplated at the moment.

To get down to the hard-news items:- Reed and Sue Richards' baby boy is born in the FF Special, on sale in August. The big secret surrounding the child's birth will be that he will be a perfectly normal baby with no super-powers.

The second 35¢ Spectacular Spider-Man book is printed by regular four-color press technique because of the very poor reaction to the black and white first issue. An extremely poor printing job on the first issue didn't help matters either. A third Spidey Spec is definately being planned.

The reason why Not Brand Ecch # 10 was a reprint book can be blamed on production problems. It was a case of either doing a reprint book or skipping an issue.

Marvel Super-Heroes # 17 features The Black Knight. Which Black Knight you ask? Both of them! It seems that our misunderstood present-day Black Knight decides that England might be just the place for him to get away from it all. So, winged horse and all, he moves into an ancient castle which just happens to be the ghostly home of the spirit of the original Black Knight. The joining of these two Black Knights make for quite an interesting format. Story is by Roy Thomas, pencils by Howard Purcell, and inks by Dan Adkins and friends.

A new version of The Vision makes his debut in Avengers # 57, and he may be around to stay.

Three Doctor Doom strips drawn by Larry Lieber and three Ka-Zar strips drawn by George Tuska have been back-logged for future use.

Sub-Mariner battles the Thing in a soon up-coming issue of his magazine. Marie Severin has drawn at least one forth-coming Subby story.

Jim Steranko is about one third of the way finished with the book he is writing on how to draw for the comics. The book is contracted to Prentice - Hall. In his spare time, Jim has also been working on the Swords and Sorcery strip about a chap called TALON. No definate book has been set for this strip yet. Jim also handled one issue of the X-Men, which will go on sale soon. In addition, he has drawn the covers for several of the titles which will be appearing within the next few months.

The new 25¢ Mighty Marvel Western book will soon be printing new material including The Ghost Rider. The Rawhide Kid book will continue, and another western t title might be added to the line (as well as another teen book since both Rawhide and Millie are selling well). A new Indian-type western feature by Bill Everett called Black Arrow should be making its debut soon.

Starting with the issues on sale in August, you should be seeing a marked improvement in the quality of Marvel's covers. The addition of new logos on several of the titles hasn't hurt either.

NATIONAL--DC

As usual, I'll start off by correcting some mistakes I made in the last issue. The name of the artist who will be doing work on the Tomahawk strip, as well as or several of the war books, is Frank Thorne, not Thorpe. Until the Atom - Hawkman proves itself saleswise, it will be published only 6 times a year, not 8 times a year as previously stated here.

As promised last issue, here is a quick run-down on the latest Showcase feature, JONNY DOUBLE.

It is somehow strange that the very first totally new character to be created professionally by two "ex-fans" should be a private eye rather than a super-hero. However, it is for the best, since this has become my MOST favorite character and strip. Now I'm not just saying this because two of my friends, Len Wein and Marv Wolfman, created the strip (under the able guidance of Carmine Infantino and Dick Giordano, I might add), or because Jack Sparling supplied the greatest artjob I have ever seen from him, for this strip. Joe Gill's dialoguing and the fact that Neal Adams created the visualization of Jonny added strongly to the strip's appeal, but what really made me fall in love with the strip is the charisma of Jonny himself. Perhaps the blurb on page 4 can best relay this aspect of the character.

Again, and I realize I'm prejudiced, I think Jonny Double is one of the greatest strips ever to come out of the comic book field.

Brother Power, The Geek will be discontinued after the two issues. If the sales figures on the book prove favorable, it may be reinstated. The last issue of Stanley And His Monster will be # 112, the Nov. issue.

At National the policy is to discontinue the poorest selling titles and replace them with new ones. Joe Orlando and Dick Giordano will be getting several new books each. Already set are Binky's Buddies for Joe; and A Date With Debbie (up-dated reprints of the old A Date With Judy comic, I believe) and The Witching Hour (a House Of Mystery type book) for Dick.

Gil Kane is again doing work for National. He has done one or two stories for House Of Mystery, the pencils for the second issue of Captain Action (inks by Wally Wood), and one Teen Titans story.

Steve Ditko is presently hospitalized, but should be well soon. Should Steve be unable to do the art for his books, Gil Kane will cover on The Hawk And The Dove, and Neal Adams will cover on the Creeper. At the moment, it appears that Gil will be doing one Hawk & Dove book.

Winslow Mortimer will be doing the penciling and inking chores for the Legion Of Super-Heroes strip.

Nick Cardy will not be doing the artwork for at least two Teen Titan stories in order to allow him to get ahead on the back-logging of Bat Lash stories.

Art chores on the Atom and Hawkman features have so far stacked-up thusly:- Joe Kubert pencils the Hawkman strip with Murphy Anderson on the inks. Dick Dillon is penciling The Atom with Sid Greene doing the inking. Joe Kubert is penciling and inking the covers.

Neal Adams will no longer be doing the covers for the Superman family of books, except for the Superboy title. Dick Giordano has done at least one Action cover over Carmine Infantino layouts.

Mike Friedrich has written the Teen Titans story for issue #19. Speedy will be appearing almost regularly in the Teen Titans tales.

Mike Esposito will be inking the Bob Brown pencils for the Superboy book.

Neal Adams will be handling all the art chores for the Brave & Bold title in the foreseeable future.

Cain's Case File will be a regular three-page feature in up-coming House Of Mystery issues. These will be adaptations of true weird happenings. Written by Marvin Wolfman, Joe Orlando will be trying out new artists on this feature. Cain The Caretaker has proven to be such a popular character with the readers that a pin-up will soon be appearing in House Of Mystery.

Joe Kubert plans to standardize the story-length in the war books to:- one 12-pager, one 7-pager, and one 4-pager. The 4-pagers will used for experimental techniques, both story-wise and art-wise. I do not believe this standardization pertains to the Enemy Ace book. Speaking of Von Hammer, he will be meeting-up with Steve Savage, The Balloon Buster, in a future episode. Starting with issue # 198, Joe Kubert will be writing the Sgt. Rock stories as well as illustrating them.

The Elongated Man strip will be dropped from Detective Comics and the character will revert to being a guest-star appearing in other character's strips. He will be replaced in Detective by a series of two-part Batgirl stories alternating with a series of two-part Robin yarns. The Detective logo will also undergo a change. Against a large old-style Batman logo, the words Detective Comics are printed fairly small; under this the words Batman and Robin appear in larger type; to the left is a small Batman figure, to the right a small Robin figure.

The next feature to appear in Showcase, number 79, will be Dolphin. Details next issue.

The reason that DC no longer accepts subscriptions is not that they are planning to raise the price of the books to 15¢, but merely a matter of the subscriptions being a money losing deal for the company.

* * *

For new readers: The numbers in parentesis following a listing indicate the month/day of that title's release date.

OUR ARMY AT WAR (No. 198, Oct.) Sgt. Rock and the men of Easy Company learn the value of a "Plugged Nickel" when just such a coin is given to Rock as a good-luck charm. Joe Kubert on the art for this and all future Sgt. Rock yarns; at least that's the way it's planned. (8/1)

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN (No. 64, Nov.) The Challs get an "Invitation To A Hanging" in this issue. Joe Kubert supplied the cover artwork with Jack Sparling handling the interior art chores. This issue also reprints the first half of the very first COTU tale from Showcase # 6. (8/1)

THE ATOM AND HAWKMAN (No. 39, Nov.) "Vengeance Of The Silver Vulture" is the book-length story in this "new" title. Art credits go to Murphy Anderson and Joe Giella for this tale, however, in order to get the book out on time, the two artists rotated penciling and inking assignments for different pages. You might enjoy trying to figure out who inked over whose pencils on each page. Cover is by Joe Kubert. (8/1)

SUPERMAN (No. 210, Oct.) When The Man Of Steel fakes Clark Kent's suicide-death, he gets some pretty interesting reactions from his friends. (8/1)

SECRET SIX (No. 4, Nov.) Mockingbird's "volunteers" have to arrange an "Escape For An Enemy" from imprisonment behind the Iron Curtin. (8/6)

CAPTAIN ACTION (No. 1, Oct.-Nov.) The origin of the character based on the boy's-doll toy. Script by Jim Shooter; art by Wally Wood. (8/6)

DC SPECIAL (No. 1, Oct.-Dec.) The all- Infantino issue discussed here in our last issue. (8/6)

THE UNEXPECTED (No. 109, Nov.) Cover story for this issue is the Mad Mod Witch tale called "Die - Dream Girl - Die!" Writer on this one is Sid Gerson, formerly a writer on the N.Y. Times staff and with some former experience in writing comics. This issues Johnny Peril yarn is entitled "Baptism By Starfire." Third story in the book is "The Haunted Windmill." (8/6)

WORLD'S FINEST (No. 179, Nov.) This 80-page giant features the first Superman - Batman team-up from Superman # 76; the first team-up tale from World's Finest #71; "The Origin Of The Superman - Batman Team" from WF # 94; "When Gotham City Challenged Metropolis" from WF # 76; "The Club Of Heroes" from WF # 89; and "The Dictator Of Kandor (Krypton City)" from WF # 100. (8/6)

G.I. COMBAT (No. 132, Nov.) There's a circus of terror for the crew of the Haunted Tank, Madamoiselle Marie, and the kid guerillas of Unit 3 in "Beware The Executioner. (8/8)

LOIS LANE (No. 87, Oct.) The conclusion to last issue's tale, in which Lois tries to kill Cor-Lar, the Kandorian scientist who gave her her super-powers. (8/8)

STAR-SPANGLED WAR STORIES (No. 141, Nov.) Enemy Ace is drawn into a duel with "The Bull," an allied combatant who isn't inhibited by Von Hammer's code of honor. (8/13)

METAL MEN (No. 34, Nov.) "Death Comes Calling" as the Metal Band continues its flight from the forces of law. (8/15)

BLACKHAWK (No. 243, Nov.) "Mission: Incredible" is the title of this last adventure of the Blackhawks. The only thing that could bring the book back would be a fantastic sales report on this and the preceding issue. (8/15)

BAT LASH (No. 1, Nov.) Bat Lash goes Monk, in this first issue of his own mag. But, then again, he's not the sort of a guy one would expect to remain in a Monastery for long. (8/20)

SUPERBOY (No. 151, Oct.) The cover of this issue shows The Boy Of Steel carrying the still form of Lana Lang into a police station. The title is: "D.O.A. -- In Cold Blood!" (8/20)

STANLEY & HIS MONSTER (No. 112, Nov.) This is the last issue. (8/22)

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD (No. 80, Nov.) Batman joins forces with The Creeper to battle one of the wildest-looking super-villains ever; "And Hellgrammite Is His Name!" Dick Giordando inked the Neal Adams pencils for this story. (8/22)

THE HAWK & THE DOVE (No. 2, Oct.-Nov.) The sadist and the masochist tackle some escaped convicts who've just made a "Jailbreak," in this continuing saga of brotherly love. (8/22)

JIMMY OLSEN (No. 115, Oct.) Olsen and Aquaman drag themselves over a torturous desert expanse seeking the life-giving water that can save only one of them. It's a case of the "Survival Of The Fittest!" (8/27)

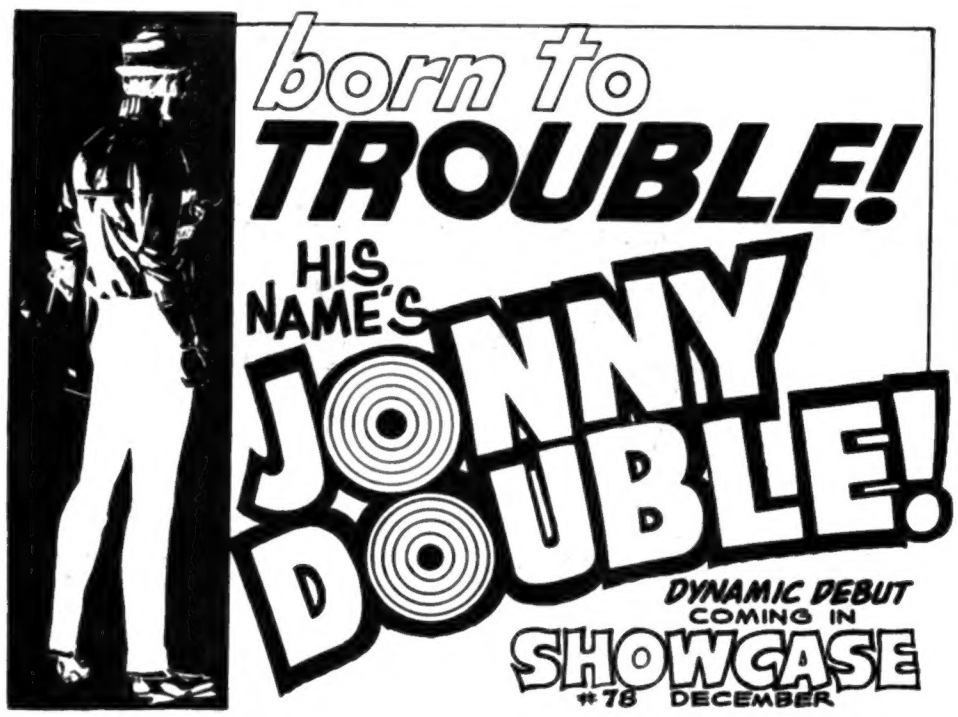
GREEN LANTERN (No. 64, Oct.) "We Vow Death To Green Lantern" is the cry of those who are blasting the Emerald Crusader with their power rings. This issue also heralds the long-awaited return of GL's "brainy" for, Hector Hammond. (8/27)

DETECTIVE (No. 380, Oct.) The rather unusual title for this issue's Batman yarn is "Marital Bliss-Miss," but it might better have been titled The Girl Most Likely To Marry Batman. (8/29)
ADVENTURE (No. 373, Oct.) Winslow Mortimer takes over the art chores for the Legion stories, starting with this issue. "The Tornado Twins" are a brother and sister duo of super-heros; only trouble is that the Legion can't figure out just what their power is. See if you can; the clues are in the story, but you've got to look fast. (8/29)
ACTION (No. 368, Oct.) When all crime, war, evil, and natural disasters become non-existant, the Man Of Steel becomes "The Unemployed Superman," in this first chapter of a two-part story. The three-part Supergirl serial ends in this issue with "Supergirl's Stand To Save Stanhope. (8/29)

OUR ARMY AT WAR (No. 199, Nov.) Sgt. Rock encounters "The Nazi Ghost-Wolf" in a tale that's more ghost story than war yarn. If you don't normally buy war mags, I suggest you make this one an exception. (9/3)
TOMAHAWK (No. 119, Dec.) Staked spread-eagle out in the desert, Tomahawk makes a perfect "Bait For A Buzzard!" (9/3)
WONDER WOMAN (No. 179, Dec.) In this issue you'll be witness to "Wonder Woman's Last Battle" and it really will be the final battle -- for the old Wonder Woman, because starting in this issue you'll be meeting the NEW Wonder Woman. (9/3)
AQUAMAN (No. 42, Dec.) Like we said last issue: Aquaman's search for the kidnapped Mera leads him to the discovery of the savage society of the Maarzon's, where he encounters his old enemy, Black Manta, and wonders, "Is This My Foe?" (9/3)
BATMAN (No. 206, Nov.) "Batman Walks The Last Mile" in this issue. The cover, which depicts Batman being being escorted to the electic chair, is also the last panel of the story. (9/5)

THE FLASH (No. 183, Nov.) Whether it's The Flash masquerading as Barry Allen or Barry Allen who's masquerading as The Flash is purely an academic question to the assassin who has Barry in his rifle sights in "The Flash Dead Ringer!" (9/5)
ANTHRO (No. 3, Dec.) "What Evil Lurks Outside?" as Anthro and his family hide in the safety of their cave -- or is it their prison? (9/5)
BROTHER POWER, THE GEEK (No. 2, Dec.) "A Visit From The Deep" marks the Geek's second and final appearance. (9/5)
JERRY LEWIS (No. 109, Dec.) Stories in this issue are: "High Stakes," "Karate Chops," "A Hard Day's Knight" and "The Flying Pizza." (9/10)
OUR FIGHTING FORCES (No. 116, Dec.) Hunter's Hellcat's meet their Nazi counter-parts in "Peril From The Casbah!" (9/10)
WORLD'S FINEST (No. 180, Nov.) In the second part of an imaginary story, you'll witness "Superman's Perfect Crime" as the former Man Of Steel is sent to kill Batman. Also in this issue is a reprint of the first "Club Of Super-Heroes" yarn that appeared in Detective Comics # 215. The sequel to this story appears in the previous issue of WF - # 179 - the 80-page giant. (9/10)
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA (No. 66, Nov.) When the super-powered "major" Leaguers have a falling out with the non-powered "minor" Leaguers, it looks as if "Divided They Fall." Or so the Dirty Half-Dozen thought! This is Denny O'Neil's first JLA script, and the accent is on comedy. (9/10)
HOUSE OF MYSTERY (No. 177, Dec.) Main feature in this issue is "The Curse Of The Cat." Incidentally, the cover of this issue was not inked, but was "shot" directly from Neal Adams pencils. (9/12)
ANGEL AND THE APE (No. 1, Nov.-Dec.) The lovely one and the one who looks like me tackle the "Case Of The Missing Go-Go Girls" in this first issue of their own magazine. (9/12)
SHOWCASE (No. 78, Nov.) See below for details. (9/12)

Jonny Double is a copyrighted character of National Periodical Publications.



The following blurb, written by Len Wein, pretty much sums up the character of Jonny Double. Since this original version will not appear in the book, and because I feel it was instrumental in selling the strip, I print it here, for posterity's sake.

Meet Jonny Double, down-beat Don Quiote in a society that frowns on windmills, hunting for that one last dragon to slay. Jonny Double, ex-cop and semi-private investigator, who makes his living wallowing thru the aftermath of innocence and the tattered ruins of once-clean souls. A guy that gets his kicks stepping on the steppers-on, tearing up their hate-filled little worlds and watching the pieces blow away. Meet Jonny Double, a once-white knight in counterfeit armor, the poor man's Peter Pan.

OLD KEY

Out VERY soon is a comic based on the Avengers TV show. The book is called John Steed and Emma Peel because the Avengers title is being used by the Marvel line. The 12¢ book contains 2 or 3 stories and the art may have been imported from the English editions of Avengers comics.

The 25¢ Super-President comic has been canceled because some of the material dealt with real candidates including, I believe, Robert Kennedy.

A new series of Gunsmoke comics, with numbering starting with # 1, will be out soon.

Due out about December is a book based on the supernatural TV soap opera Dark Shadows which will have a color poster included in the book. The first title to include a color poster will be the Chity-Chity Bang-Bang 25¢, 32-page special, due out in September.

Other titles scheduled for September release include:- Doctor Solar # 26, Ernie Colon has been handling the art chores on this book recently, but will not be able to do so much longer; Star Trek # 3, Kirk's crew becomes involved with the "Planet Of Machines."; Huck Finn # 1, based on next season's TV show of the same name; Tarzan # 181; Korak # 26; Turok # 64; Space Family Robinson # 31; Land Of Giants # 1; Boris Karloff # 24; Wild Wild West # 4, "The Treasure Of Montezuma"; Bugs Bunny # 120; Donald Duck # 122; Moby Duck # 4; Uncle Scrooge # 78; and Hanna-Barbera TV Super-Heroes # 4.

LATE NEWS AND NOTES

The Batgirl and Robin stories that are soon to start in Detective Comics will be written by Mike Friedrich and illustrated by Gil Kane.

The script for Marvel's new Black Arrow western series is supplied by Arnold Drake.

academy forum

There'll be no formal Academy forum this time around. Instead, I'd like to take the opportunity to say a few things off the cuff.

First of all, this issue of OTDB will probably be mailed a few days late. This marks a new editorial policy. From now on OTDB will be published every 6 or 7 weeks, instead of sticking to a rigid 6½ week schedule. This is to save wear and tear in ye editor.

In order to make this zine as up-to-the-minute as possible, which it should be as this is its main function, it has been necessary to type, correct, paste-up and deliver the zine to the printer's in as short a period of time as possible. In addition, when the finished sheets return from the printer they must be colated, stapled, folded, staped closed, and the stamps and addressing labels pasted on before they can be mailed out.

In the past, this has meant going several days without sleeping every time an issue is due out. It has been a killing experience, so I have finally let myself be pursuaded that the extra day or two this situation saves isn't worth the cost, health-wise, to me. Therefore, in the future, OTDB's publishing schedule will be flexible by about three days, either way, of the promised mailing date.

I got such a favorable reaction to the illos I used in the last issue, that I decided to include a number in this issue. Future issues, however, will not contain as many as appear this time around. I felt the half-page Deadman illo below was a must in this issue, seeing as he will soon find the Hook.

THE SPIRIT is a copyrighted character of Will Eisner

Speaking of the illustrations, I hope they turn out okay. All of them except the Jonny Double picture are being shot from pencil sketches and a great deal of fine line is lost in the process. I know that the Frazetta illo, which has a great deal of light line, will not reproduce anywhere near as good as the original looks.

Incidentally, Jack Sparling's Jonny Double illo is based on a pencil sketch by Neal Adams. While the character was still in the formative stage, I challenged Neal to do a picture of Jonny as he visualized the character. The resultant product was so well received by everyone that it was immediately accepted as what the final characterization should look like.

I just realized that this fourth issue marks the end of half a year's editorship of OTDB for me. I may be conceited in saying this, but it seems to me that this issue is a vast improvement, at least lay-out-wise, over my first issue. I hope it gets even better in the next half year.

Recently I've received a few $2.00 checks from people wanting to join the Academy. However, since the Academy will not be opened to membership until next year, I have credited that money towards their OTDB subscriptions. This brings up a point I should have made before.

If you have several issues, or even one for that matter, left to your OTDB subscription at the end of the year, and you wish to become an Academy member, you will have a choice of two things to do. First, you can pay the $2.00 and I will extend the extra issues beyond the run of your membership. Or, secondly, (and I suggest this is the best method), you can discount the number of issues <u>above</u> # 7 that you have remaining, and subtract the amount from the $2.00 membership fee. Each single issue can be discounted at 13¢; each two issues will be worth a 25¢ discount. (The number in the upper right hand corner of your addressing label indicates the number of the last issue you are to recieve under your present subscription. I hope this settles the situation.

Printed below is the first batch of listings o local fan clubs and organizations that I received in responce to my request for same, in the last issue, I will be printing further listings in future issues.

For New England fans:- Bob Cosgrove (58 Massachusetts Ave., Braintree, Mass. 02185) and Martin Greim (Box 132, Dedham, Mass. 02185) would like to organize some sort of fan organization in their area. If you're interested in the prospects, I suggest dropping either one a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

<u>S.M.A.S.H.</u>, or the <u>S</u>ociety for <u>M</u>agazine <u>A</u>ppreciators of <u>S</u>uper-<u>H</u>eroes, is a Los Angeles based fan club that boasts almost a hundred members. The Los Angeles Comic Book Club (obviously SMASH's alter ego) holds meetings each Saturday afternoon, at which a variety of activities, ranging from trading thru discussions to the showing of old movies, take place.

For further details, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the club's President, Jim Shull, 4546 Fulton Avenue, Sherman Oaks, Calif. 91403.

<u>H.Y.D.R.A.</u>, or the <u>H</u>ysterical <u>Y</u>ellers of <u>D</u>allas <u>R</u>eviewing <u>A</u>ssossiation (which just goes to show how far fans will go in order to work out a "classy" sounding name for their club). This Dallas based fan club presently has 20 regular members plus a few "fringe" fans who hold movie parties, informal gatherings and engage in other usual fan activity. There is no membership fee, the only membership requirement is having the interests of a fan, and the membership roster is open. So if you're interested in joining, drop a line to Larry Herndon, 1830 Highland Drive, Carrollton, Texas 75006.

<u>E.G.A.D.</u>, or the <u>E</u>vergreen <u>G</u>raphic <u>A</u>rt <u>D</u>enomination, is a closed-roster fan club whose membership presently numbers 7. Further members will be accepted by invitation only. The locale of the club's activities range across Washington, northern Idaho, and the areas surrounding, and in closer proximity to Seattle from Portland, Vancouver and Victoria.

The club's basic objective is the sponsoring of an annual convention. Last June 8th they held Northwest ComiCon I with approximately 40 fans attending. Altho it is useless to write about joining, you might want to contact Lars Erickson, (6060 Upland Terrace South, Seattle, Wash. 98118), in order to keep yourself informed about next year's Northwest ComiCon.

<u>The Canadian Academy Of Comic Book Collectors</u> is not a local fan club, but hopes to draw its membership from Canada and all the other Commonwealth nations (British Isles, Australia, New Zealand, etc.). There is no official membership yet, as the organization is just beginning its drive. There will be a membership fee next year. Membership requirements are: a) You must live in Canada or any other Commonwealth country as of Dec., 1968; b) You must be 14 years of age or older as of Dec., 1968; c) You must read at least 100 comic magazines a year; d) You must fill out an official Academy application.

The group intends to publish a monthly newsletter, and hold a yearly convention in Toronto. The first (at least I think it's the first) Toronto Triple Fan Fair was held this past June 29th & 30th, and July 1st. The guest of honor was Stan Lee, and I've heard that the affair was a huge success.

For further information and an official application, write to: C.A.C.B.C., c/o Memory Lane, 594 Markham Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

<u>The Foundation</u> is a club whose immediate locale is Sanford, Florida, but they plan to expand their area of operation to cover wider areas of the state. The present membership roster is 12, and is open to all persons interested. The membership fee is $2.50, which includes the cost of a subscription to the club's official fanzine, which is published approximately 8 times a year. The only requirement is that each member contribute material to the zine twice a year. The club also has plans to hold a Comicon next year.

For further information, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Phil Norwood, 113 Grove Lane, Sanford, Fla. 32771.

Next issue will be mailed on or about Sept. 3rd.

Due to my printer's atrocity (honestly, it isn't my fault), this issue has no margins. I apologize for this, and promise it won't happen again. Hope you don't mind the weird stapling.
If I owe you a letter ... Good Luck! I'm so far behind.....